THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) : the enquiries made with Maruti Udyog Limited, M/s. General Motors India Limited, M/s. Ford Motors India Limited and M/s. TELCO indicate that prices of their cars have not been increased following the Budget. The prices of cars are not regulated and are fixed by the manufacturers from time to time on commercial considerations.

PSUs in the Country

4476. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PSUs functioning in the country as on-date; and

(b) the total capital investment made therein by the end of March, 2000 along with the amount on which interest has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.1999, till which period the information is available, there were 240 PSUs (including 5 under construction) functioning in the country. The total investment made in these PSUs on that date was Rs. 230140 crores out of which Rs. 149779 crores were long term loans on which interest is being paid.

Guidelines for Navratna PSUs

4477. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have announced guidelines for the Board of Navratna PSUs - wishing to enter into a technology joint ventures/strategic alliance with other firms,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of PSUs which propose to have joint ventures with foreign/ domestic partners and sent their proposal to Government for clearance; and

(d) to what extent PSUs are likely to be benefited by such ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The guidelines issued in January, 2000 ensure, *interalia,* that the selection is transparent and proceeds having regard to commercial expediency, appropriate techno-economic parameters, quantification of risk factors, and investment limits delegated to the company. Joint ventures are expected to help Navratna PSUs in their endeavour to become global players.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Guidelines for Weak PSUs

4478. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have directed the heads of the Central PSUs in the country to take hard decision whose performance has become a cause for concern;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines/instructions issued to weak PSUs;

(c) the number of PSUs which were referred to BIFR and were revived during the last three years;

(d) whether the National Renewal Fund has been created for sick PSUs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) It is the constant endeavour of the Government and management to improve the performance of CPSUs, particularly of sick PSUs. Enterprise specific measures are taken in this regard. This is a continuous process. As on 31.12.99, 52 Central PSUs were registered with BIFR, of which revival schemes of 8 PSUs were sanctioned in the last three years. These schemes are at different stages of implementation.

(d) and (e) The objectives for establishing National Renewal Fund, details of its programme and activities are available at page 113-115, Annual Report 1999-2000 of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and Department of Industrial Development, which has been laid in the Parliament on 13th March, 2000 and is a published document.